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25

17 February 1970
IEG/MSD-200/70

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director, NPIC

THROUGH: Chief, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC

SUBJECT: SS-9 Variant Committee

REFERENCES: CIA Publications of Surveyor dated 2 and 4 February 1970

1. Members of the committee have maintained liaison and have evaluated new information concerning the SS-9 variant problem.

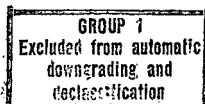
2. New developments at the Tyuratam Missile Test Center which possibly relate to the SS-9 variant problem are noted at Complexes C and H and Launch Group Q. Some of the activity may be correlated with telemetry of recent firings of a variant of the SS-9 missile.

3. Analysis of Radint indicates that the trajectory backtracks of two Mod-2 vehicles and one Mod-4 vehicle launched during [] were compatible with previous SS-9 launches from Tyuratam Complex H.

4. Photography of the SS-9 R&D facilities at Tyuratam on [] showed activity levels which are compatible with the firings. Several propellant cars were observed between firings in Complex H, the R&D launch area, and a missile dolly was observed at pad H-1 one day prior to a Mod-4 launch. An unusually high level of activity was also observed at the instrumentation area which supports the SS-9 launches from Complex H. About 20-25 vehicles and electronic vans were observed on [] photographic coverage of the Complex C instrumentation facilities. The activity seen on photography therefore tends to indicate a high degree of Soviet interest in these flights, and suggests that the missiles all were launched from the prime SS-9 R&D facility--Complex H.

5. While the specific nature of renewed R&D interest in the SS-9 Mod-2 is unknown, its occurrence at a time when Mod-4 R&D is assessed to be in the final stages suggests that testing of another SS-9 variant could begin shortly after Mod-4 development is completed.

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7. Members of the committee regularly confer with one another on any new information concerning the problem. Significant developments or any breakthroughs on the part of the committee will be reported to you immediately; otherwise, a status report will be forwarded on a quarterly basis.

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Chief, Missiles and Space Division
IEG/NPIC

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